

### REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 17-26 are presented for consideration. Claims 17, 20, 21 and 24 are independent. Claims 21, 24 and 25 have been added to clarify features of the subject invention. Support for these changes can be found in the original application, as filed. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 17-20 have been indicated as being allowable over the art of record. In addition to these claims being allowable, Applicants submit that claims 21-26 patentably define features of the subject invention. Therefore, Applicants request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action.

Claims 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner objected to specific phraseology in claim 21. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Applicants submit that one having ordinary skill in the art would readily understand the operation of the control unit of the present invention recited in that claim, when read in light of the subject disclosure. Therefore, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Turning now to the art rejection, claims 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,277,533 to Wakamoto et al. Applicants submit that this

patent does not teach many features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 21 and 24, for example. Therefore, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

In one aspect of the present invention, independent claim 21 recites a scanning exposure apparatus including a stage unit on which an object to be exposed is placed and which moves the object, a position detecting unit which detects a position of a surface of the object, while the object is moved by the stage unit, and a control unit which obtains correction data for correcting a detection result made by the position detecting unit, utilizing the position detecting unit and the stage unit, on which the object is placed. The position detecting unit is initialized for the detection of the position of the surface of the object, based on a position of the object being moved by the stage unit.

In another aspect of the present invention, independent claim 24 recites a scanning exposure apparatus including a stage unit on which an object to be exposed is placed and which moves the object, and a position detecting unit which detects a position of a surface of the object, while the object is moved by the stage unit. The position detecting unit is initialized for the detection of the position of the surface of the object, based on a position of the object being moved by the stage unit.

The Examiner relies on the Wakamoto et al. patent for teaching a scanning exposure system and its method that includes a stage unit on which an object is to be placed and which moves the object, a position detecting unit which detects a position of a surface of the object while the object is moved and a control unit. Applicants submit, however that the Wakamoto et al. patent does not teach or suggest the salient features of Applicants' present invention, as

recited in independent claims 21 and 24, in which a control unit obtains correction data for correcting a detection result made by a position detecting unit, utilizing the position detecting unit and a stage unit, on which an object is placed. The position detecting unit being initialized for the detection of the position surface of the object, based on a position of the object being moved by the stage unit (independent claim 21) or a position detecting unit which detects a position of a surface of an object, while the object is moved by a stage unit, the position detecting unit being initialized for the detection of the position of the surface of the object based on a position of the object being moved by the stage unit (independent claim 24). In short, Applicants submit that the Wakamoto et al. patent has no teaching of initializing a position detecting unit for detection of a position of a surface of an object based on a position of the object being moved by a stage unit.

Accordingly, Applicants submit that the Wakamoto et al. patent does not teach or suggest many features of the present invention as recited in independent claims 21 and 24, and, therefore, should not be read to anticipate Applicants' invention recited in those claims.

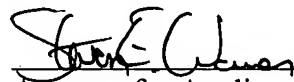
For the reasons noted above, Applicants submit that the present invention, as recited in independent claims 21 and 24, also is patentably defined over the cited art.

Dependent claims 22, 23, 25 and 26 also should be deemed allowable, in their own right, for defining other patentable features of the present invention in addition to those recited in their respective independent claims. Further individual consideration of these dependent claims is requested.

Applicants further submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the above-noted Office Action and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our address listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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